FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 OCTOBER 1986

PLO

The "Palestinian Revenge Organization" claimed responsibility for the assassination of PLO official Mundhir Abu Ghazalah in Athens 21 October, Radio Monte Carlo reported. A spokesman for the group described Abu Ghazalah as "one of 'Arafat's emblems" who "played a role in the return of the Yemeni Jews to occupied Palestine," the radio added. Nevertheless, a PLO executive committee and military command statement broadcast by Sanaa Voice of Palestine held Israel "completely responsible" for the death of Abu Ghazalah, who was "commander of the Palestinian naval forces." The PLO mourns one of its "best militant leading cadres," the statement said, and it will "not leave unpunished" those responsible for the attack.

Lebanon

Voice of Lebanon radio questioned Amal leader Nabih Birri's claim that his organization has custody of the captured Israeli pilot, citing information that the Israeli is being held and interrogated by the Syrians. South Lebanese Army (SLA) commander Antoine Lahd likewise dismissed Birri's claim during a news conference reported by Jerusalem radio. Lahd's public appearance followed a recent claim that he had been replaced as SLA commander.

In another development, Beirut radio reported renewed fighting between Amal and Palestinian gunmen in the Al-Rashidiyah camp area near Tyre, citing an Amal announcement that seven Amal militiamen were killed or wounded in a Palestinian attack early 23 October.

Israel

Security authorities arrested the Fatah squad responsible for a 1983 bombing during which 6 bus passengers were killed and some 50 wounded, Jerusalem radio reported. Information on the squad was obtained during the interrogation of prisoners suspected of carrying out the recent grenade attack in Jerusalem.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warplanes carried out a "surprise attack" on a "massive enemy concentration" causing "immense losses" in men and materiel, according to a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

Gulf maritime sources cited by KUNA reported that a Kuwaiti tanker was hit by an Italian-made rocket after a naval vessel detained and searched it off the coast of Dubayy. According to an Iranian military communique cited by IRNA, nine cargo ships and tankers were inspected in the Strait of Hormuz and allowed to continue.

In Paris, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with his French counterpart Jean-Bernard Raimond, who subsequently disclosed that their talks covered the war and French moves to normalize relations with Iran, AFP noted.

Iran

Break With Ivory Coast — Diplomatic relations with the Ivory Coast were severed following that country's announcement of its intention to reopen its embassy in Jerusalem, according to a Foreign Ministry statement cited by Tehran radio. However, according to Rabat radio, the Moroccan Foreign Ministry informed Arab envoys of the Ivorian president's proposal to locate the embassy in Tel Aviv. On the other hand, the Israeli Foreign Ministry discounted reports that the Ivory Coast is reconsidering the Jerusalem site, Jerusalem radio noted. The radio pointed out that none of the five Arab League members represented in Abidjan has broken relations.

Ties With Libya — In a statement to JANA upon his arrival in Tripoli, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who is accompanied by the Revolution Guards Corps minister, praised bilateral "fraternal ties and strong relations" and noted the solidarity among Iran, Libya, and Syria. The visit will contribute to the two countries coordinating their positions, Velayati said in remarks cited by IRNA. Meanwhile, the Brazilian paper *Veja* reported that to circumvent a Brazilian ban on arms sales to Iran, Libya has been selling Iran spare parts to repair armored vehicles captured from Iraq.

Libya

Tripoli radio broadcast statements by Basic People's Congresses calling for the execution of Muslim Brotherhood members and denouncing "shaykhs who express corrupt and divergent views."

Saudi Arabia

According to a report in *Jane's Defence Weekly* cited by AFP, Saudi Arabia has invited six West European governments to submit proposals for a contract to supply six to eight large submarines.

Defection of DRA Pilot

An Afghan Air Force pilot defected to Pakistan 23 October, landing his MiG-21 at an air base northwest of Islamabad, according to an *Afghan Islamic Press* announcement cited by AFP.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 205 *23 October 1986*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

IRAN

Balkh Workers Attend 'Warm' Soviet Troop Send-Off ..... I 1
Delegate Returns From World Peace Congress 23 Oct ..... I 1
Rebels Said 'Crushed'; Ammunition Seized in Paghman ..... I 1

INDIA

Gandhi Says Cabinet Reshuffle Involved 'Performance' ..... E 1
Pakistani Claim of Soviet Base Facilities Denied ..... E 1
Dehli Cites Junejo on No Indian Interference in Sind ..... E 1
Police Fire at 'Activists' in Darjeeling; None Injured ..... E 1

PAKISTAN

Junejo Reiterates Stand on Afghanistan Issue ..... F 1
Spokesman on Afghanistan, Indian Nuclear Capability ..... F 1
Delhi Reports Ethnic Clashes in Karachi; 3 Injured ..... F 1
AIP Cited on Defection of Afghan Air Force Pilot *[AFP]* ..... F 1

IRAN

Khamene'i Receives War Information Chief 22 Oct ..... I 1
Khamene'i Sends Message on 'Suspicious' Machel Death ..... I 1
Musavi Cautions Nation Against 'Baseless' Rumors ..... I 1
Oil Minister Returns From OPEC Meeting 23 Oct ..... I 1
Tehran Reports Departure of Battalions for Fronts ..... I 1
Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq ..... I 2
Communique No 2,632 ..... I 2
Communique No 2,633 ..... I 2
Iraqi Kurds Down 2 Iraqi Helicopters ..... I 2

Balkh Workers Attend 'Warm' Soviet Troop Send-Off

LD230619 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1530 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Excerpts] Today thousands of Balkh Province workers gave a warm send-off, expressing fraternal gratitude, presenting flowers, and chanting friendship slogans to a military unit of the USSR, who after accomplishing their internationalist duties together with the heroic DRA officers and men in safeguarding the territorial integrity, national independence, and defense of the gains of the April Revolution, were returning to their peaceloving country via the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Bridge on Amu Darya in Hayratan. [passage omitted]

The returning regiment, amid the warm enthusiasm of thousands of people who were chanting friendship and solidarity slogans, singing farewell songs, flying pigeons of peace and presenting flowers, left for their peaceloving country via the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Bridge.

Delegate Returns From World Peace Congress 23 Oct

LD231414 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 23 Oct 86

[Text] Kabul, October 22, BAKHTAR: The World Peace Congress of Copenhagen focused on the ensurance of regional and world peace and the cessation of regional tension, said Abdul Rahim Hatef, chairman of the Central Council of National Fatherland Front upon his return at Kabul airport.

Abdul Rahim Hatef who was heading the Afghan delegation to the conference added that the issue about the situation around Afghanistan and intervention into the internal affairs of the DRA was also discussed at the congress. The congress ratified the position of the DRA as well as the measure taken by the Soviet Union on the termination of unilateral nuclear tests. It was hoped that the United States should join the Soviet Union for the cause of mankind's security.

The participants of the conference supported the peace proposals of the Soviet Union at Reykjavik summit and wanted the United States to come to accord with the Soviet Union on banning nuclear tests and to remove the worry of the people of the world in this respect.

Abdul Rahim Hatef said that the participants of the conference reaffirmed the peaceful policy of the DRA including the peace proposal of 1980 and 1981 and the announcement of national reconciliation by the DRA. The conference also confirmed the policy of the DRA for peaceful political solution of the situation around Afghanistan and the decision by the DRA and the USSR on the return of the six regiments of the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union and asked Pakistan and the United States to follow a reciprocal approach.

The Afghan delegation explained to the participants of the conference about the gains of the April Revolution which was warmly received by the participants of the conference. The speakers also strongly denounced foreign intervention into the internal affairs of the DRA, said Abdul Rahim Hatef.

Delegates from 126 countries, 73 international organisations, and 32 trade unions had participated at the 5-day long Copenhagen conference. A total of 2,468 representatives had attended the conference.

Rebels Said 'Crushed'; Ammunition Seized in Paghman

LD221813 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Text] The country's heroic Armed Forces, with the cooperation of the toiling inhabitants of the villages of Paghman District, carried out a successful combat operation recently and have crushed a counterrevolutionary group who had intended to settle in the remote regions of Paghman District.

BIA reported that during this successful combat operation a number of these criminals were crushed and our forces seized 11 surface-to-surface missiles, 59 mortars, 40 shells for recoilless rifles, 20 rocket shells, 31 antitank and antipersonnel mines, 110 boxes of DShK ammunition, 19 kg of an explosive substance, several weapons together with 11,000 rounds of ammunition, a quantity of medicine, and antigovernment propaganda leaflets.

Gandhi Says Cabinet Reshuffle Involved 'Performance'

BK221614 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Excerpts] Seven new ministers were inducted into the union Council of Ministers today and five were dropped. There has been a major reshuffle of the portfolios. [passage omitted]

Answering questions by newsmen after the swearing in ceremony, the prime minister said he had inducted some senior people into his Council of Ministers to give added dynamism to the government to ensure sustained all-round development. Asked whether party reorganization is also on the anvil, Mr Gandhi said perhaps. He said the long-awaited Cabinet expansion had involved detailed assessment of the performance of persons concerned. Some ministers of state who had done good work have been given independent charge doing away with the Cabinet ministers. Mr Gandhi said that he is satisfied with the performance of his Council of Minister; it is a good group and working very well.

Responding to another question, the prime minister said overall the government has functioned well in all spheres, especially economy, finance, foreign policy, and planning. Mr Gandhi admitted that his experiment of having one minister for the crucial portfolios of external affairs and commerce had not yielded the desired result. He said this involved too much work for a single person.

Later, Mr Gandhi had talks with the president for about half an hour.

Pakistani Claim of Soviet Base Facilities Denied

BK231419 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 23 Oct 86

[Text] India has expressed surprise at the Pakistani allegation that it has provided base facilities to Soviet naval ships in Visakhapatnam in southern state of Andhra Pradesh. A Foreign Office spokesman in New Delhi expressed surprise at the allegation and described it as baseless. He said the fact of the matter is that no naval ship from any country visited Visakhapatnam in the last several years.

The spokesman recalled that in India's draft for a treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation given to Pakistan, a suggestion had been made that neither country should give bases or military facilities to third countries. India considered this important for establishing durable peace and a friendly, harmonious bilateral relationship. The spokesman said this continues to be our position. On the other hand, Pakistan informed us that they did not want to foreclose their option on the question of providing military bases.

Asked what the subsequent developments were the spokesman recalled the visit of the U.S. nuclear-powered aircraft carrier *Enterprise* to Karachi in March last.

The All India Radio correspondent reports that 14 foreign warships visited Indian ports during 1985. Out of these, only two were from the Soviet Union. The others were from some Western countries, including U.S. and nonaligned countries. During the current year also 13 naval ships visited Indian ports, and only 1 was from the Soviet Union.

Delhi Cites Junejo on No Indian Interference in Sind

BK221610 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Text] The Pakistan prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has said that he does not see any sign of India's interference in the internal affairs of this country, particularly in Sind. According to PTI, Mr Junejo told newsmen at Peshawar airport that the situation in Sind Province is well under control.

Police Fire at 'Activists' in Darjeeling; None Injured

BK230320 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 23 Oct 86

[Text] An uneasy calm prevailed in the Darjeeling hill areas yesterday while security forces continued to patrol sensitive areas. The Border Security Force and Central Reserve Police Force personnel conducted nightlong combing operations in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, and Kurseong towns. Police fired three rounds on a group of the so-called Gurkha National Liberation Front activists who tried to set on fire the house of a CPI-M worker and hurled bombs at a tea estate in Singrimari. According to the police, no one was injured in the firing.

Junejo Reiterates Stand on Afghanistan Issue

BK211103 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 21 Oct 86

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has reiterated Pakistan's principled stand on Afghanistan issue, calling for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghanistan, restoration of its Islamic and nonaligned status, right of the Afghan people to form a government of their choice, and to enable the Afghan refugees to return to their homeland in honor and dignity. Addressing a representative tribal jirga [assembly] in Peshawar today, he said it was in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the United Nations, the ICO, and the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] summit. It has been our endeavor to solve this problem at the earliest. It was with this spirit that Pakistan had been participating in the UN-sponsored Geneva talks. Pakistan will not only continue but also accelerate its efforts for a political solution of this issue. The prime minister said, as a result of foreign intervention in Afghanistan, one-fifth of its population was forced to flee their country and 3 million of them had sought refuge in Pakistan. Pakistan had provided them shelter and relief purely on Islamic brotherhood and humanitarian grounds and would continue to do so till they return to their homeland with honor and dignity.

Referring to the increased air and ground violation of Pakistan territory by the Kabul regime, the prime minister said we had shown restraint till now to avoid any threat to peace in the region. But this should not be taken for weakness, as our Armed Forces and 90 milion people are fully capable of defending their borders.

Turning to the demands pinpointed in the address of welcome, the prime minister said special attention was being given to the solution of the problem of the tribesmen. An employment cell has been set up at the federal level to provide employment to the jobless young tribesmen. He announced increase of 5 times in the tribal allowance —mawajib. He said it has also been decided to increase 15 seats for tribal students in the medical colleges from the next academic year. The prime minister highly appreciated the services and sacrifices rendered by the tribesmen for the cause of Islam in Pakistan. Pakistan, he said, had been established in the name of Islam and hoped that Islamic values would be enforced in every sphere of life.

Earlier, a tribal elder, Haji Malik Shahzada Khan Kukikhel, in his address of welcome, appreciated the government's efforts for the speedy development of the tribal area and the Islamization of the society.

Spokesman on Afghanistan, Indian Nuclear Capability

BK221636 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Excerpts] The UN General Assembly is due to take up the Afghanistan question for debate on the 4th and 5th of next month. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan leaves for New York on Monday [27 October] to lead Pakistan's delegation. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that it is Pakistan's hope and effort that the world body will once again endorse the resolution by an overwhelming majority so as to contribute to the building of an atmosphere which will lead to the end of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. The spokesman said only with the pull out of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan will there be a restoration of balance in the region.

Referring to the recent Reykjavik summit, the spokesman said it appears that there was no outcome of the talks on Afghanistan. Pakistan believes that the Soviet Union must be reminded on every occasion that a (?normal) situation in Afghanistan will be restored only if it ends the reign of sin and destruction in Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

The spokesman said it is no secret that India is capable of producing nuclear weapons. This was stated by the Indian prime minister himself. It is also known to all that India has already produced 40 kg of plutonium. India will benefit remarkably from the manufacture of plutonium in years to come as the reactor in Madras also begins to manufacture plutnium which does not fall under any safety regulation.

The spokesman also said that visits by the naval ships of friendly countries to Pakistan is a normal thing. More than 80 naval ships including those from the United States, France, Britain, and Indonesia, had made friendly visits to Karachi harbor in the past. Referring to the criticism of the Government of India, the spokesman said not only does India provide facilities for visits by foreign ships but it has also provided permanent facilities for Soviet naval ships at Visakhapatnam port.

Delhi Reports Ethnic Clashes in Karachi; 3 Injured

BK230304 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Oct 86

[Text] In Pakistan, there have been ethnic clashes in Karachi during the mourning of 30 people killed in Tuesday's bus-rail collision.

An agency report says that the crowd went on a rampage, looting and burning properties in the suburb of Korangi. Three persons were reported to have been injured in the clashes. Security has been tightened in the area.

AIP Cited on Defection of Afghan Air Force Pilot

BK230745 Hong Kong AFP in English 0741 GMT 23 Oct 86

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 23 (AFP) — An Afghan Air Force pilot defected to Pakistan on Thursday, landing his Soviet MiG-21 at Kohat Air Base 170 kilometres (100 miles) northwest of here, the pro-resistance *Afghan Islamic Press* (AIP) reported.

The pilot headed for Kohat shortly after taking off from base in Afghanistan on a military mission, AIP said.

The aircraft was surrounded by Pakistani security forces on the tarmac and the pilot surrendered to the authorities, AIP added.

Khamene'i Receives War Information Chief 22 Oct
LD221816 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 22, IRNA — President and head of the Supreme Defence Council, 'Ali Khamene'i, received head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Kamal Kharrazi, here Wednesday morning.

Kharrazi reported to the president on the activities of the headquarters including recording events of the Iraqi-imposed war and also its future programs such as holding seminars on various aspects of the war both at domestic and international levels.

The president issued the necessary guidelines.

Khamene'i Sends Message on 'Suspicious' Machel Death
LD222314 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Text] Following the death of President Samora Machel of Mozambique in a suspicious plane crash, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i sent the following message of condolences to Robert Mugabe, head of the Nonaligned Movement:

Your Excellency Robert Gabriel Mugabe, chairman of the Nonaligned Movement. The news of the death of your long-standing comrade, comrade of the oppressed people of Africa, and our close friend, His Excellency Samora Machel, late president of Mozambique, as a result of a totally suspicious incident, deeply distressed us and again demonstrated the need for stronger solidarity among the progressive and revolutionary states, and the need for the unity of the Nonaligned Movement.

We believe, now that one of the most outstanding elements of the Nonaligned Movement and a hero of the oppressed African nation's independence has become the target of a possible conspiracy, it is necessary for the Nonaligned Movement, and especially your excellency, to pay particular attention to full investigation of the incident, identification and exposure of the possible agents involved, and recognition of the roots of the inhumane deeds of the enemies of that region's people. It is hoped that the movement will be able to find an appropriate answer to the sinister objectives of state terrorism and global arrogance.

The Islamic Republic of Iran declares its full readiness to offer any assistance and cooperation in this matter and expects to see an effective response from the Nonaligned Movement and from your excellency.

Musavi Cautions Nation Against 'Baseless' Rumors
LD222333 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 22, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi cautioned the Iranian people here Wednesday against giving credence to baseless rumors spread by agents of the global arrogance. He said such rumors were diverting the people's attention from the war fronts in the hope of creating a crisis on the eve of the fateful Iranian offensive against Iraqi forces.

Speaking at the end of a Cabinet session here, the prime minister said that the devoted Iranian people should further contribute to the country's affairs in order to foil these rumors.

During the Cabinet session, Health Minister 'Ali Reza Marandi presented a report on the new medical services fees.

Minister of Housing and Urban Development Serajuddin Kazeruni, gave a report on the activities of the urban estate organization. He said that 127,564 plots of land measuring 86.2 million square meters have been given to applicants since March 22, 1986.

Oil Minister Returns From OPEC Meeting 23 Oct
LD230936 Tehran IRNA in English 0836 GMT 23 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 23, IRNA — Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh returned here from the 79th Geneva conference of oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Thursday morning.

Iran's proposal for oil production quotas was accepted with minor adjustments in the quotas of a number of member countries. OPEC's production ceiling was increased by 200,000 barrels a day and extended for November and December.

The 79th conference was the lengthiest meeting in OPEC's history in which the oil ministers held 16 days of deliberations.

Tehran Reports Departure of Battalions for Fronts
LD230327 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Excerpts] This afternoon seventeen battalions of the 'Inheritors of 'Ashura' from Khorasan departed for the battlefronts from the burial site of the holy seventh imam, may peace be upon him. According to a Central News Unit report, the combat Basij force that gathered in Mashhad from all over Khorasan Province and which was organised and regrouped there, left for the fronts after performing some ceremonies of prayer recitals and chest beating in the compound of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Basij unit base.

Also, three battalions of engineer combat forces from the War Relief Headquarters of the Reconstruction Jihad of Khorasan, under the name of the 'Inheritors of Imam Hoseyn'convoy, departed for the war fronts this morning. Two battalions of conscript guards' forces from Ilam Province too, after receiving the necessary military training, left today for the war fronts. We also draw your attention to the departure ceremonies of forces from Qazvin and Shahr-e Kord, where the seventh 'Karbala' Marchers' convoy and the second convoy of 'Inheritors of 'Ashura' from Qazvin, numbering six specialized combat battalions, left this afternoon for the fronts. [passage omitted]

The third convoy of 'Inheritors of 'Ashura' from the Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari region, at a strength of one battalion of volunteer and redeployed forces and Basij forces from the guards

and from tribal units, also left this afternoon for the fronts. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,632

LD221530 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 22, IRNA — Iran's Navy intercepted and inspected nine cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Tuesday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied that they were not carrying any war-related cargo for Iraq, said a military communique here Wednesday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,632 said that a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several tanks and observation posts of theirs destroyed in the southern fronts by heavy Iranian artillery and tank fire on Tuesday. Parts of enemy positions were also set ablaze.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces, the communique said, heavily shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the western and southern fronts Tuesday silencing enemy fire and setting afire several vehicles and gun emplacements of theirs.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the western fronts Tuesday raging somewhat more heavily in Mehran and Meymak operational theaters, the communique said.

Elsewhere, the communique said that an Iraqi armoured unit operating in Nahr 'Anbar sustained heavy losses when it was hit by Iranian artillery fire. Enemy engineering operations were also checked in this front.

An Iraqi supply truck was destroyed by Iranian artillery fire in areas overlooking Marivan, northwestern fronts, on Tuesday. according to the communique.

The communique furthermore said that movement of Iraqi infantry soldiers as well as enemy engineering operations were checked on Tuesday.

Communique No 2,633

LD231632 Tehran IRNA in English 1601 GMT 23 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 23, IRNA — The Iranian Navy intercepted and inspected 13 foreign ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Wednesday, and allowed them to continue voyage since no suspicious case was found, according to a military communique released here Thursday.

The 2,633 communique of the Joint Staff Command of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces added that Iran's combatants of Islam, firing on enemy strongholds in the northwestern operational regions, checked all activities of the Iraqi forces and inflicted some casualties and losses upon them during Wednesday and Thursday.

Enemy fire in the Panjwin theatre, in the said operational region was silenced by the Iranian defenders who dealt more blows upon the latter, and prevented flights of Iraqi helicopters over the Sar Dasht front in the northwestern area.

Further down, in the western fronts, some Iraqi troops were killed or wounded when the Iranians destroyed four group bunkers and a heavy vehicle during Wednesday and Thursday.

An Iraqi patrol group, attempting to penetrate the Iranian forces' positions in the Kani-Sheikh [name as received] theatre of the western fronts, was soon forced to flee with some losses by the fire of Iran's Muslim forces.

The enemy forces sustained further casualties and damage when their motorized columns in the western fronts of Maymak, Mandali, Badra and Kani-Sheikh [names as received] were subjected to the Iranian artillery fire.

Fire exchanges continued between the two sides in the southern fronts, raging heavier in the Talaiyeh and northern Majnun Island areas, where some Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded by heavy fire of the Iranian forces. Also, several Iraqi group bunkers were demolished in the said areas.

Two Iraqi patrol groups, trying to reach the Iranian forces' positions in the area of the Meimeh [name as received] river and in the Abdanan theatre of the southern fronts, were routed by the Iranians.

Iran's Muslim forces also checked movements of Iraqi tanks in the operational regions of Basra, Eyn Khosh and in the area of Anbar River.

The Iranian Gendarmerie forces, defending their positions in the southern fronts, demolished several enemy group bunkers and killed a number of Iraqi troops during the afore-mentioned period, concluded the communique.

Iraqi Kurds Down 2 Iraqi Helicopters

LD221751 Tehran IRNA in English 0833 GMT 22 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 22, IRNA — Muslim Kurdish Peshmerga fighting against the Iraqi regime downed two Iraqi military helicopters and seized another one intact, last Saturday, reports from Iraq said.

Three Iraqi helicopters on a mission to attack positions of Kurdish Peshmerga in areas between Kirkuk and Irbil Provinces, northern Iraq, were shot down by the Kurds and their pilots were killed. Pilot of the third aircraft escaped anti-aircraft fire of the Muslim Kurds by landing in the area where he surrendered to the Kurds.

The same reports added that the Iraqi Muslim Kurds attacked a number of bases of the Iraqi Ba'thist forces in the same area and killed 18 Iraqi soldiers. During these attacks Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga seized a number of weapons and a military vehicle.